

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 ADDIS 09809 141630Z

51

ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
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R 140948Z AUG 75
FM AMEMBASSY ADDIS ABABA
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 5898
INFO AMCONSUL ASMARA
AMEMBASSY BEIRUT
AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS
AMEMBASSY KHARTOUM

S E C R E T ADDIS ABABA 9809

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PINS PINT ET
SUBJECT: CISCO TWO: CAN OSMAN SALEN SABBE HELP?

REF: (A) KHARTOUM 1878 AND 1888; (B) ADDIS 9772; (C) FBIS 081002Z AUG

1. OSMAN'S REMARKS IN AUGUST 7 BEIRUT DAILY STAR (REF C) AS WELL AS OTHER ELF AND PLF STATEMENTS ISSUED OUTSIDE ETHIOPIA INDICATE BOTH GROUPS AND INDIVIDUALS SOMEWHAT OUT OF TOUCH WITH EVENTS IN ERITREA. IN SPITE OF OSMAN'S STATEMENT, IT APPEARS CLEAR THAT THE CISCO TWO ARE IN PLF HANDS. EMBASSY FEELS THAT GIVEN THE BEIRUT STATEMENT, OSMAN NOW SHOULD BE CONTACTED AND PRESSED TO HAVE PLF RELEASE CISCO TWO.

2. IF OSMAN CAN BE LOCATED, WHICH MAY BE NO EASY TASK, HE MIGHT ALSO BE ENCOURAGED TO GO PERSONALLY TO KHARTOUM OR ERITREA TO FACILITATE CISCO TWO'S RELEASE FROM PLF CAPTORS. IT IS OBVIOUS HE IS NOT IN CLOSE TOUCH WITH EVENTS IN ERITREA, AND HIS EXHORTATIONS FROM A DISTANCE WILL NOT BE AS EFFECTIVE AS PERSONAL REPRESENTATIONS TO PLF FIGHTERS THERE.

3. IF OSMAN IS CONTACTED, EMBASSY RECOMMENDS THAT HE BE INFORMED IF ISSAYAS' STATEMENT RE RANSOM DEMANDS AND THAT HIS ATTENTION BE DRAWN TO THE STATEMENT'S INCONSISTENCY WITH HIS OWN. IN ADDITION,
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SINCE OSMAN PROBABLY IS NOT INFORMED AS TO THE WHEREABOUT OF THE

CISCO TWO, HE SHOULD BE GIVEN AS ACCURATE A DESCRIPTION OF THEIR LOCATION AS IS POSSIBLE.

4. WE HAVE REPORTS OF PERSONALITY DIFFERENCES BETWEEN ISSAYAS AFEWORK RPT AFEWORK AND OSMAN. SEVERAL EMBASSY SOURCES WHO ARE KNOWLEDGEABLE ABOUT E/PLF PERSONALITIES BUT NOT RPT NOT E/PLF MEMBERS REPORTED SOME TIME AGO THAT ISSAYAS WAS A DEVOUT MARXIST AND ANTI-AMERICAN. AFTER RECENT E/PLF JOINT MEETING IN ERITREA, ONE OF THESE SOURCES REVERSED HIS POSITION STATING NEW INFORMATION LED HIM TO BELIEVE ISSAYAS IS A MODERATE. IF TRUE, OSMAN-ISSAYAS MEETING COULD BE THE KEY TO RELEASE OF CISCO TWO.

HUMMEL

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